

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this Response, Applicants elect Group III, claims 1-9, with traverse. Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

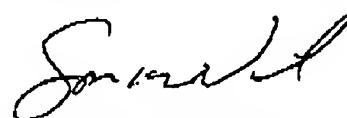
Applicants submit that the subject matter of Groups I, II and II is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of the Group I invention would encompass a search for the subject matter of the Group II invention and the Group III invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the individual Groups would be identical, and thus a search for all Groups could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803 in which it is stated: "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examining by the Office. Reconsideration of the election/restriction requirement and rejoinder of claims 10-19 is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 10/708,883

2

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement between Groups I, II and III. Should the Examiner require anything further from Applicants, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Spencer K. Warnick
Reg. No. 40,398

Dated: April 4, 2006

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
75 State Street, 14th Floor
Albany, NY 12207
(518) 449-0044 - Telephone
(518) 449-0047 - Facsimile

Serial No. 10/708,883

3